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devoted to the latter. The mean annual temperature of the Pacific Coast belt of Alaska is 54° to 60°. It is about that of Eastport, Me., but differs in being cooler in summer and warmer in winter. Owing to prevailing dampness, it is a "chilly" climate. The rainfall at Sitka is 105 inches. In Bering Sea fog is the normal condition. The Aleutian Islands shut out the warm Pacific waters, and sailing is uncertain. The interior of Alaska has a high range of temperature, 147° being recorded; while, as would be expected, the range at Sitka is much less, 90°. At the same time the interior is dry, and has more sunshine in a month than Sitka has in a year. The population in 1900 was 63,592, having nearly doubled in the previous ten years. Mr. Gannett's adjective for the resources of Alaska is—"enormous." In placer gold $5,000,000 came from Cape Nome in the summer of 1900. Agriculture, however, is not promising in Alaska. A most appreciative word is uttered for the scenery, whose "grandeur is more valuable than the gold or the fish or the timber, for it will never be exhausted."

The chapter on the Alaska Atmosphere is by Professor William H. Brewer of Yale University, and deals chiefly with the colours of the sky. Other papers are: Bogoslof, Our Newest Volcano, by Dr. Merriam; the Salmon Industry, by Mr. Grinnell; and Fox Farming, by M. L. Washburn. Mr. Gilbert contributes a note on the Physical History of Bogoslof.

A. P. B.

Aus den Hochregionen des Kaukasus. Wanderungen, Erlebnisse, Beobachtungen von Gottfried Merzbacher. Erster Band. Mit 144 Abbildungen nach Photographien gezeichnet von E. T. Compton, Ernst Platz und M. Z. Diemer, und zwei Karten. Zweiter Band. Mit 102 Abbildungen nach Photographien gezeichnet von E. T. Compton, Ernst Platz, M. Z. Diemer und R. Reschreiter und einer Karte. Leipzig, Verlag von Duncker & Humblot. 1901.

The magnitude of this work is oppressive. The first volume contains 957, the second 963 closely-printed octavo pages, including an index of 117 pages, thoroughly well done, like the rest of the work. It is impossible to review such a book; nor is it a book to be read. It is rather an encyclopædia to be consulted as an authority.

Mr. Merzbacher devotes his first chapter to the orography and structure of the Higher Caucasus. In the centre the axis of the chain is composed of crystalline rocks, granite, gneiss, and granulite; to the west, of porphyry, diabase, and gneiss, and along the axis are deposited the oldest sediments, by which it is completely covered in the eastern part of the chain.

In the Caucasus the snow-limit is lower on the southern slope than on the northern, a point of resemblance with the Himalayas. The contrary is the case with the Alps. Erroneous impressions have prevailed with many as to the poverty of the Caucasus in glaciers.* It is, in fact, not less rich in glaciers than the Alps.

The hydrography is simple. There are no such rivers as in the Alps, but on the two slopes flow two large streams parallel with the direction of the chain, and the water-shed between the two seas, to the south and to the north, is also a climatic dividing wall.

The passes of the Caucasus are all at a great elevation. Mr. Merzbacher gives a list of 68, many of them occupied by glaciers. The lowest pass is Psegaschka, 6,880 feet high, in the west; the highest is Dychni-ausch, 12,720 feet, in the central chain. The famous Dariel pass is 7,800 feet in height.

Mr. Merzbacher climbed many of the peaks, with the ardour of a professed Alpinist; but he was interested in men not less than in rocks and walls of ice, and his chapters on the mountain peoples have a special value.

The illustrations are charming and in every way worthy of a text in which nothing is wasted.

The map (in three sheets) is based upon the surveys by the General Staff of the Army of the Caucasus.

Publications of the Museu Paraense de Historia Natural e Ethnographia.

These publications just received are:

ARBORETUM AMAZONICUM, 1^a e 2^a Decadas, the Iconography of the most important Plants growing spontaneously and cultivated in the Amazonian Region, by Dr. J. Huber, Chief of the Botanic Section of the Museum. These present twenty quarto plates, beautifully printed, with brief descriptions in Portuguese and French;

ALBUM DE AVES AMAZONICAS, 1° Fasciculo, Estampas 1–12, by Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi, Director of the Museum. These twelve plates, somewhat smaller than those of the *Arboretum*, show the birds with their colouring among the trees and on the shores, as they live.

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*Among those who have committed themselves to error on this subject are named Heim, Agassiz, Salatzky, and *Réclus ;* so printed, even in the index.